



**La Crosse Area Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## MISSION SUPPORT AT WORK

Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships  
Rooted in God's Love

## **What is a synod?**

The word “synod” means “walking together.”

Synods are made up of congregations that have their own individual missions but who also walk together in service of the regional, national, and international mission of the church at large. This happens through relationships, service, and financial giving.

## **What is Mission Support**

Mission Support is the financial giving that is sent from congregations on to synod and churchwide expressions of the ELCA to support the wider ministries of the church at large.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

# OUR MISSION

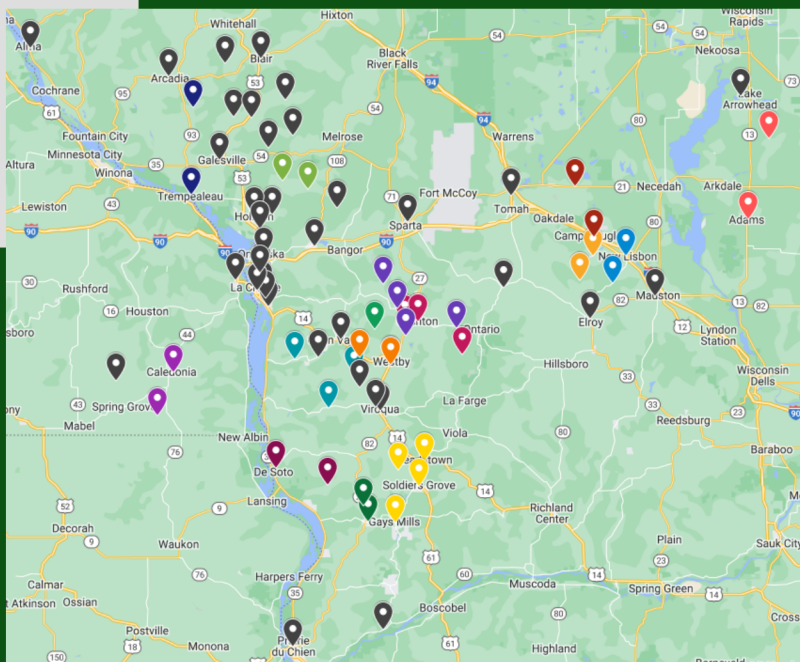
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## Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships Rooted in God’s Love

The La Crosse Area Synod’s mission is to Cultivate Life-Giving Relationships Rooted in God’s Love. By joining together across the church, we are able to do more together in service to this mission than any one congregation or person could do apart. Together, we share the love of Jesus in our communities, throughout the country, and around the world.



# THE SYNOD AT A GLANCE



The La Crosse Area Synod is comprised of:

**73 congregations**

36+ congregations are part of multi-point parishes

**A Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Camp**

Sugar Creek Bible Camp - Ferryville, WI

**Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin) of La Crosse**

Serving Students of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, Viterbo University, & Western Technical College

**Chaplaincy Ministries**

ELCA Rostered Ministers serving in hospitals, hospices, and care facilities throughout the synod



# WHAT DOES THE SYNOD ACTUALLY DO?



## Congregational Support

- Supports and accompanies councils and pastors
- Assists in the development and enrichment of multi-point parish relationships
- Provides stewardship, congregational vitality, conflict resolution, strategic planning, constitutional updates, and mission priority consultations
- Maintains and supplies a resource list of supply pastors
- Discerns mission priorities as a Synod council to best serve the needs of the communities of the synod



## Lay Leadership Development & Support

- Provides coaching and logistical support for lay staff & leaders
- Offers faith formation and theological education courses and programs through the Synod School of Theology
- Identifies, equips, and supports people to serve as Synod Authorized Ministers in congregations
- Leads congregational workshops, congregation council consultations, and mission discernment planning
- Accompanies congregational leaders to assess their missional futures





## Call Process

- Trains and equips call committees to faithfully engage in the pastoral call process
- Prayerfully searches for pastoral candidates with gifts and passions aligning with individual congregational mission priorities
- Assists congregations in mission clarity, congregational vitality, and change process during transitions
- Engages in reflections with pastors and deacons during time of discernment regarding changing calls



## Networking

- Connects congregations with ELCA Churchwide ministries
- Gathers annually as a full synod for Synod Assembly to worship, serve, learn, and deliberate missional policies and budgets
- Builds relationships with ecumenical and interreligious partners locally, nationally, and internationally with companion synods in Peru and the Czech Republic
- Collaborates with other synods and mission partners
- Connects with the wider Lutheran church through the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief



## Clergy Support & Spiritual Formation

- Offers support and encouragement through monthly conference gatherings, ministry consultations, clergy appreciation events, and annual 1-on-1 check-in conversations with synod staff
- Prays with and for clergy regularly. Offers prayerful support and reflection in times of discernment.
- Provides enrichment opportunities at spring and fall theological conferences and retreats, first-call theological education, boundaries trainings, and coaching opportunities



## Community Engagement

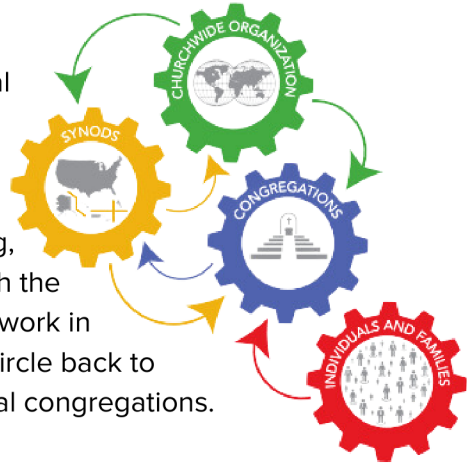
- Engages in social justice work issues of immigration, anti-racism, climate change, hunger, poverty, and other areas that limit the ability to experience life-giving relationships rooted in God's love.
- Advocates for social justice policy reform rooted in God's love through Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin and the Middle East Peace Network



# MISSION SUPPORT

ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide.

When people give through their local congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national churchwide organization. This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations.



The La Crosse Area Synod forwards 46% of the Mission Support received to ELCA Churchwide ministries including support of:

- ELCA World Hunger
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Young Adults in Global Mission & International Partnerships
- Worship, discipleship, stewardship, & prayer resource development
- 7 ELCA Seminaries and 26 ELCA Colleges & Universities
- Fund for Leaders Scholarships
- Social Justice & Ethnic-Specific networks and resources for action



Together, with your generous Mission Support, we are faithfully Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships Rooted in God's Love. Thank you!



**La Crosse Area Synod**  
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